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OO RUEHCHI RUEHDT RUEHHM RUEHNH RUEHTRO
DE RUEHGO #0816 3560401
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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9687
INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 2365
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 5859
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 9425
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 7044
RUEHCHI/AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI 2386
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2793
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 000816

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EAP/MLS, DRL, AND IO
PACOM FOR FPA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/22/2019

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [BM](#)

SUBJECT: KNU DENIES RESPONSIBILITY FOR BOMBING IN KAREN
(KAYIN) STATE

Classified By: Political Officer Marc Shaw for Reasons 1.4 (b) & (d)

¶1. (SBU) Embassy Rangoon contacts in Karen state confirmed press reports that a bomb exploded in Papun, Karen state on December 16, killing at least seven individuals and injuring ¶11. The New Light of Myanmar (Burma's state-run daily) and AFP reported that a time bomb detonated in the evening at a temporary bazaar to celebrate Karen New Year. The GOB claims the Karen National Union (KNU) is responsible for the bombing. The KNU is a political organization representing ethnic Karens that has been in an ongoing struggle with the regime since the country's independence; its military wing is the Karen National Union Liberation Army. The GOB describes the KNU as a terrorist organization.

¶2. (SBU) In a statement released on December 18, however, the KNU "categorically" denies responsibility. In direct contradiction to Burma government accusations, the KNU stated that it is not a terrorist organization, but rather an organization that works toward achieving peace and prosperity. The KNU argues that the Burma Army commits war crimes and that the bombing was "instigated by the... military regime." The KNU stated the government seeks to discredit and "create conflict and misunderstanding" within ethnic groups in advance of the 2010 elections.
DINGER